

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

12. (Currently Amended) A system for operating a dental chair operatively connected to a computer provided separate from a dental chair control unit, comprising, one of actuating elements and status indicators disposed on the dental chair,
- a computer interface, via which information is transmitted in the form of function codes from the dental chair control unit to the computer by way of the actuating elements,
 - and a storage area in the computer, in which actions assigned to at least one function code are stored,
 - wherein the computer has software capable of managing said at least one function code and by means of which the actions assigned to said at least one function code in a saved configuration file in the storage area is initiated, functions of the software being carried out in a running PC application,
 - and wherein the assignment of said at least one function code associated with the actuating elements on the dental chair to prescribed actions are capable of being configured by modifying the configuration file for the software.
13. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in claim 12, wherein the software includes a dialog box by means of which a user can allocate said at least one function code issuing from said one of the actuating elements and status indicators on the dental chair to predetermined PC actions.
14. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in claim 12, wherein the assignment of the actuating elements depend on the currently active PC application.
15. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in claim 12, wherein the actuating elements have different assignments for different PC applications.
16. (Currently Amended) A system as defined in claim 12, wherein information concerning the assignment of the actuating elements is capable of being transmitted from the computer

to the dental chair via the computer interface and is made perceptible on ~~the~~ a control panel.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a dental chair operatively connected to a computer provided separate from a dental chair control unit, comprising the steps of:

- actuating one of an actuating element and a status indicator disposed on the dental chair, and generating information thereon at the dental chair;
- transmitting the information in the form of at least one function code from the dental chair to the computer;
- comparing the information in the form of said at least one function code with a configuration file in a storage area in the computer; and
- carrying out an action assigned to predetermined information stored in a configuration file;
- wherein the comparison of the information is taken over by software managing said assignment and independent of the PC applications used, by means of which the action is carried out, by opening or closing of a PC application, and wherein
- the assignment of said at least one function code of the status indicators on the dental chair to the action is specified and is configured by modifying the configuration file.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 17, wherein a user of the software specifies the assignment of said at least one function code issuing from the status indicators on the dental chair to predetermined PC actions in a dialog box.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 17, wherein the software provides means for storing a number of different configurations.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 17, wherein the assignment of the actuating element is dependent on the currently active PC application.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 17, wherein in different PC applications different actions are assigned to the actuating element concerned.
22. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 17, wherein the assignments are displayed on ~~the~~ a control panel of the dental chair.
23. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 17, wherein a PC context that is returned via a computer interface is indicated on a control panel.